

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

1-2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An LCD system capable of fast mode operation with high contrast, said system comprising:

a) a source of polarized lights;

b) an electrically controlled birefringence LC cell having a surface upon which said light is incident, wherein said cell includes LC bulk material contained between and adjoining an upper and a lower glass substrate, said upper substrate having said surface;

an optically anisotropic intermediate layer interposed between said upper substrate and said LC material;

wherein said cell includes LC bulk material contained between an upper and a lower glass substrate and adjoining said lower glass substrate; and

wherein said intermediate layer is oriented in the same plane as said LC bulk material when in an unbiased state;

wherein an ordinary index of refraction and an extraordinary index of refraction of said intermediate layer are the same as an ordinary index of refraction and an extraordinary index of refraction of said bulk LC material;

such that a boundary layer of said LC bulk material adjacent to said intermediate layer in combination with said intermediate layer forms a net isotropic stack.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said intermediate optically anisotropic layer is an LC polymer having a predetermined director profile.

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5. (previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically anisotropic intermediate layer comprises a photo polymer.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically anisotropic intermediate layer is evaporated obliquely between said upper and lower glass substrates.

7. (previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically anisotropic intermediate layer is etched by an oblique particle beam.

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said optically anisotropic intermediate layer is milled.

9-13. cancelled